



United States Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office Detroit
110 Mt. Elliott Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207-4380
Phone: (313) 568-9580
Fax: (313)-568-9581
www.uscg.mil/msodetroit



Marine Safety Information Bulletin 9-2004
June 30, 2004

July 4th MARITIME SECURITY AWARENESS

As we approach the July 4th, 2004 holiday and the enactment of the Maritime Transportation Security Act on July 1st, ongoing analysis of intelligence information and assessments show no specific, credible information identifying terrorist intentions to conduct attacks against national Independence Day celebrations or related venues.

However, I would like to emphasize with our maritime security partners the need to increase awareness and deterrence in order to ensure the security of our homeland. In addition, our ability to assess threats requires timely information. Continued reporting from state/local and private sectors is critical in creating a national threat profile. Terrorists are opportunistic. They exploit vulnerabilities left exposed, choosing the time, place, and method of attacking according to the weaknesses they observe or perceive. Increasing the security of a particular type of target makes it more difficult for terrorists to strike successfully. In order to protect ourselves from those who desire to harm our nation, it is important to maintain awareness by looking for suspicious activity or "things out of place."

The U.S. Coast Guard continues to recommend the following protective measures: maintaining heightened status of security forces, maintaining irregularly timed security sweeps, conducting identity checks, etc. ID checks conducted at security points should be considered in order to verify the valid business need for an approaching vehicle. Special vigilance should be maintained for multiple vehicles arriving outside the window of scheduled activities. The use of random or rolling patrol operations can be effective in signaling to terrorists that their chances of succeeding are minimal and terrorist operations may be disrupted and prevented.

The Department of Homeland Security will continue to coordinate with the intelligence community throughout the holiday period and provide immediate threat notification as warranted.

Sincerely,

P. G. GERRITY
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Federal Maritime Security Coordinator